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Senate approves new Ducks Unlimited license plate
Plate bill sponsored by Patterson would be first under new process

Lansing – Michigan motorists may soon have another option for a specialty license plate, Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) announced today.

The Senate Wednesday passed Patterson's bill, Senate Bill 193, requiring the Secretary of State to develop and issue a state-sponsored fund-raising plate for the Michigan chapter of Ducks Unlimited.

The money received from the sale of these plates will be used to protect, enhance, restore, manage and acquire wetlands and associated uplands in this state.

"Specialty plates allow drivers to display their support for causes near and dear to them," Patterson said. "It's a badge of honor that has been successful for many worthy causes. A Ducks Unlimited plate is an option to support all their critical work for Michigan's outdoor heritage."

Each year, more 100,000 acres of vegetated wetlands are lost in the United States. That acreage is home to more than 900 species, some endangered or threatened. Since Ducks Unlimited was founded more than 65 years ago, it has been responsible for the conservation of more than 10 million acres of wildlife habitat across North America.

Once the bill becomes law, motorists may purchase a Ducks Unlimited specialty plate instead of a standard registration plate for use on a passenger motor vehicle, pickup truck, van, motor home, hearse, bus, trailer coach or trailer. There are currently seven state-sponsored fundraising plates and 15 university fundraising plates.

In addition to the standard license plate fee, a \$25 donation will be charged that will be forwarded to the non-profit organization for which the plate is designated.

Patterson also announced that Senate bill 785 was reported out of the House Transportation Committee on Tuesday. This bill establishes criteria that organizations must meet in order to create a new specialty plate. It is designed to prevent Michigan taxpayers from paying start-up costs for specialty plates that may not sell and to prevent confusion in the law enforcement community by requiring plates to meet a standard format.

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